

REMARKS

Allowed Claims

Claims 24-29 are allowed over the prior art.

Claim Rejections and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-23 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0059395 (hereinafter referred to as "North").

Claims 30-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of North.

Claims 36 and 41-42 are objected to as being allowable while depending from a rejected claim.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of North and AAPA in the Office Action. However, solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution of the present application, Applicant has cancelled claims 20-23 without prejudice, amended independent claim 30 to include the limitation of prior claim 36 (which is now cancelled), and amended independent claim 40 to include the limitation of prior claim 41 (which is now cancelled).

Claims 30 and 40 are, therefore, allowable. Claims 31-33 and 35 depend from claim 30 and claim 42 depends from claim 40. Therefore, claims 31-33, 35, and 42 are also allowable.

Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests the Examiner to pass the application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-3906 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw. Applicant does not believe that an extension of time is necessary. However, if any extension of time is necessary, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension of time and authorizes the Office to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3906 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw for the appropriate extension of time fee.

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Respectfully submitted,

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